

April 25, 2008

Honorable John D. Dingell, Chair  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives

Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Chair  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Dingell and Subcommittee Chair Pallone:

We the undersigned local, state, and national organizations are writing to express our strong support of H.R. 3014, the “Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007.” We also request that you take action to hold a hearing on this important legislation early in 2008. The provisions in H.R. 3014 are critical to reducing health disparities and restoring equity to healthcare coverage for individuals most in need of assistance, by improving access to health care and health care education for underrepresented minorities. H.R. 3014 would go a long way toward closing health care and quality gaps for communities of color as well as language minorities, gaps that have been well-documented for many years.

We are pleased with the provisions of this legislation that create alternative coverage opportunities for many low- and moderate-income immigrants and their families. Despite a robust presence in the workforce, many immigrants and their families are unable to connect with health coverage that bridges them with necessary health care services. H.R. 3014 takes a critical step to grant states the option to cover lawfully-residing immigrant children and pregnant women under the Medicaid and State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP); these children are currently barred from coverage for five years after their arrival in the U.S. These health care restorations will help to ensure that needy children have a healthy start so that they can fully develop and grow. And we know that every dollar spent on prenatal care saves \$4 or more in longer-term medical costs. This provision is a long-standing priority for addressing a core barrier to health care: the lack of health coverage.

HR 3014 also will improve the quality of health care for all communities of color by promoting culturally- and linguistically-appropriate services and care for individuals with language barriers. Successful health care delivery depends on the ability of both patient and provider to experience effective communication. The bill provides federal support for the provision of language services through Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP reimbursements for participating providers. The legislation also makes available critically-needed funds for development and implementation of language interpretation services, and supports training for health care providers using models of cultural competence that will benefit rural areas and Indian Country. The bill would enhance the health literacy of consumers and offer support to community health workers who promote cost-effective prevention strategies.

The need for change in our health care system is rising to the top of the national agenda. We must make deliberate attempts to ensure that those who are most in need of quality health care

services are included. We cannot continue to leave critical communities behind. H.R. 3014 addresses many of the most important causes of unequal access to health care and treatment. We urge you build upon your commitments and work together with us to pass the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007 as a critical part of making healthcare more accessible to everyone in our nation.

Sincerely,

### **NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

9to5, National Association of Working Women  
ACORN  
Afro-Americans C.A.R.E.  
AIDS Action  
Alzheimer's Association  
American Arab Forum  
American Association of Jews from the Former USSR  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Federation of Government Employees  
American Friends Services Committee  
American Heart Association/American Stroke Association  
American Humane Association  
American Lung Association  
American Public Health Association  
Americans for Democratic Action, Inc.  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian American Justice Center  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center  
Asian Pacific Islander Caucus  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP)  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Break the Cycle  
Campaign for America's Future  
Catholic Health Association of the U.S.  
Child Welfare League of America  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Community Action Partnership  
COPE Health Solutions  
Dads & Daughters  
Easter Seals  
Esperanza  
Families USA  
Farmworker Justice  
First Focus  
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)  
Ingram & Company  
Institute of Social Medicine & Community Health

Integrated Community Solutions, Inc.  
 Japanese American Citizens League  
 Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
 Jewish Labor Committee  
 LAC COURTE OREILLES Vocational Rehabilitation Program  
 Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
 League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)  
 Legal Momentum on Immigrant Women Program  
 Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
 Mental Health America (formerly NMHA)  
 Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF)  
 Migrant Legal Action Program  
 Moms Rising  
 National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
 National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
 National Alliance to End Homelessness  
 National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
 National Association For Continence (NAFC)  
 National Association of Community Health Centers  
 National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems  
 National Association of Social Workers  
 National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
 National Council of Jewish Women  
 National Council of La Raza  
 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund  
 National Health Law Program (NHeLP)  
 National Hispanic Council on Aging  
 National Hispanic Medical Association  
 National Immigration Law Center  
 National Institute for Reproductive Health  
 National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
 National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
 National Latino Children's Institute  
 National LULAC Health Commission  
 National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association  
 National Minority AIDS Education Training Center -(NMAETC)  
 National Organization for Women  
 National Partnership for Women and Families  
 National Priorities Project  
 National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc.  
 National Women's Health Network  
 National Women's Law Center  
 NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
 Our Bodies, Ourselves  
 PALS for Health  
 PHI-Health Care for Health Care Workers Initiative  
 Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health  
 Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
 Poverty & Race Research Action Council  
 Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism  
 RESULTS

Results - Columbus, Ohio  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas  
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Standard Homeopathic Company and Hyland's, Inc.  
Tahirh Justice Center  
The AIDS Institute  
The Sikh Coalition  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Methodist Women  
USAction  
Voices for America's Children  
Women of Reform Judaism

### **REGIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**

9to5 Bay Area -- *San Jose, CA*  
9to5 Colorado -- *Denver, CO*  
Access Health Care Long Island Coalition -- *Hempstead, NY*  
Acercamiento Hispano de Carolina del Sur -- *Columbia, SC*  
ACLU of Southern California -- *Los Angeles, CA*  
Action for Children North Carolina -- *Raleigh, NC*  
African Services Committee -- *New York, NY*  
AIDS Action Baltimore, Inc. -- *Baltimore, MD*  
AIDS Project of Central Iowa -- *Des Moines, IA*  
Alaska Hispanic Affairs Council of Alaska, Inc.-- *Anchorage, AK*  
Alliance for Multicultural Community Services -- *Houston, TX*  
Altamed Health Services Corporation, -- *Los Angeles, CA*  
American Indian Healing Center -- *Whittier, CA*  
Americans for Democratic Action, Hawaii Chapter -- *Honolulu, HI*  
Arc of Onondaga -- *Syracuse, NY*  
Arizona Advocacy Network -- *Phoenix, AZ*  
Asian Health Services -- *Oakland, CA*  
Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha, Inc. -- *Philadelphia, PA*  
Association for Children's Mental Health -- *Lansing, MI*  
Atlanta 9to5 -- *Atlanta, GA*  
Bellevue/NYU Occupational & Environmental Medicine -- *New York, NY*  
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation -- *Dillingham, AK*  
California League of United Latin American Citizens -- *Antioch, CA*  
California Church IMPACT -- *Sacramento, CA*  
California Immigrant Policy Center -- *Oakland, CA*  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network -- *Oakland, CA*  
California Primary Care Association -- *Sacramento, CA*  
Carolynn's Montessori for Toddlers -- *Petaluma, CA*  
Catholic Healthcare West -- *Pasadena, CA*  
Cedar River Clinics - Feminist Women's Health Center of WA State -- *Seattle, WA*  
Center for Civil Justice -- *Saginaw, MI*  
Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York -- *New York, NY*

Center for Independent Living of South Florida, Inc. -- *Miami, FL*  
 Center for People in Need -- *Lincoln, NE*  
 Central City Community Health Center -- *Los Angeles, CA*  
 Central Jersey Impeach Group and Mercer DFA -- *Princeton, NJ*  
 Chicano Federation of San Diego County -- *San Diego, CA*  
 Children's Alliance -- *Seattle, WA*  
 Chinatown Service Center -- *Los Angeles, CA*  
 Citizen Action of New York -- *New York, NY*  
 Citizen Action of Wisconsin -- *State of WI*  
 Citizen Action/Illinois -- *State of IL*  
 Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc -- *Brooklyn, NY*  
 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues -- *Washington, DC*  
 Coalicion de Lideres Latinos -- *Dalton, GA*  
 Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF) -- *New York, NY*  
 Coalition for Independent Living Options -- *West Palm Beach, FL*  
 Coalition for the Homeless of Nassau County -- *Fernandina Beach, FL*  
 Colorado NOW -- *Denver, CO*  
 Colorado Progressive Action -- *Denver, CO*  
 Colorado Progressive Coalition -- *Denver, CO*  
 Common Cause Oklahoma -- *Norman, OK*  
 Community Development Corp. Resource Consortium Inc. (CDCRC Inc) -- *Dayton, OH*  
 Community Health Councils -- *Los Angeles, CA*  
 Conexion Americas -- *Nashville, TN*  
 Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Inc. -- *Philadelphia, PA*  
 Connecticut Citizen Action Group -- *Hartford, CT*  
 Daughters of Mary and Joseph -- *Rancho Palos Verdes, CA*  
 Delaware Alliance for Health Care -- *Newark, DE*  
 Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) -- *Las Vegas, NV*  
 Detroit Medical Reserve Corps -- *Detroit, MI*  
 Dignity Housing -- *Philadelphia, PA*  
 Diocese of Jefferson City -- *Jefferson City, MO*  
 Disabled in Action of Greater Syracuse -- *Syracuse, NY*  
 District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund -- *Philadelphia, PA*  
 Dominican Sisters of Houston -- *Houston, TX*  
 East Oakland Community Development Corporation -- *Oakland, CA*  
 Elim Transitional Housing, Inc. -- *Minneapolis, MN*  
 Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia -- *Charlottesville, VA*  
 Family Life Center, St. Mary's University -- *San Antonio, TX*  
 Family Planning Advocates of New York State -- *Albany, NY*  
 Farmworker Association of Florida -- *Apopka, FL*  
 Feminist Women's Health Center -- *Atlanta, GA*  
 First Mexican Baptist Church -- *San Antonio, TX*  
 Florida Consumer Action Network (FCAN) -- *Tampa, FL*  
 Friends Neighborhood Guild -- *Philadelphia, PA*  
 Gary Community School Corporation -Board of School Trustees -- *Gary, IN*  
 Georgia Rural Urban Summit -- *Decatur, GA*  
 Global Justice Ministry Metropolitan Community Churches -- *Abilene, TX*  
 Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition -- *New York, NY*  
 Hands Across Cultures, Corp. -- *Espanola, NM*  
 Health Care for the Homeless Program at the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center -- *Anchorage, AK*  
 Health Equity Associates, LLC -- *Havre de Grace, MD & Pittsburgh, PA*

Heartland Health Outreach -- *Chicago, IL*  
 Heartland Human Care Services -- *Chicago, IL*  
 HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Inc. -- *Delaware, OH*  
 Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia, Inc. (HHCGA) -- *Atlanta, GA*  
 Hispanic Ministry United Methodist Church -- *Frederick, MD*  
 HIV/AIDS Services for African Americans in Alaska -- *Anchorage, AK*  
 Hudson Center for Health Equity & Quality -- *Tarrytown, NY*  
 Hudson Health Plan -- *Tarrytown, NY*  
 Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) -- *Portland, OR*  
 Hunger Action Network of NYS -- *Albany, NY*  
 Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN) -- *Boise, ID*  
 IHM Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office -- *Monroe, MI*  
 Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition -- *Chicago, IL*  
 Immigrant Rights Network of Iowa -- *Des Moines, IA*  
 Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council -- *Indianapolis, IN*  
 Intercommunity Housing Association -- *St. Louis, MO*  
 Iowa Citizen Action Network (ICAN) -- *Iowa City, IA*  
 Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence -- *Des Moines, IA*  
 Justice & Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ -- *Cleveland, OH*  
 Kentucky Youth Advocates -- *Jeffersontown, KY*  
 Kids in Common - A Voice for Children -- *San Jose, CA*  
 L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center -- *Los Angeles, CA*  
 Long Island Health Access Monitoring Project -- *Great Neck, NY*  
 La Clínica de La Raza, Inc. -- *Oakland, CA*  
 La Fe Policy Research and Education Center -- *San Antonio, TX*  
 Land Stewardship Project -- *White Bear Lake, MN*  
 Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA) -- *Denver, CO*  
 Latino Family Services -- *Detroit MI*  
 Latino Health Steering Committee -- *Montgomery County, MD*  
 Latino Leadership, Inc. -- *Orlando, FL*  
 Latinos for Education & Justice, Inc. -- *Fairmount, GA*  
 Law Center for Families -- *Oakland, CA*  
 LawHelp.org/NY City Bar Justice Center -- *New York, NY*  
 Leadership Team, Sisters of Mercy Detroit -- *Detroit, MI*  
 Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut -- *Hartford, CT*  
 Liberty Resources, Inc. -- *Philadelphia, PA*  
 Los Angeles 9to5 -- *Los Angeles, CA*  
 Los Angeles Unified School District -- *Los Angeles, CA*  
 Madison-area Urban Ministry -- *Madison, WI*  
 Maine People's Alliance -- *Portland, ME*  
 Marin County Department of Health & Human Services -- *San Rafael, CA*  
 Mary T. Inc. -- *Coon Rapids, MN*  
 Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition -- *Boston, MA*  
 Massachusetts Law Reform Institute -- *Boston, MA*  
 Maternity Care Coalition -- *Philadelphia, PA*  
 Medicaid Matters! Maryland -- *Baltimore, MD*  
 Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center -- *New York, NY*  
 Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania -- *Philadelphia, PA*  
 Mexican American Opportunity Foundation -- *Montebello, CA*  
 MICAHA (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing) -- *Minneapolis, MN*  
 Michigan Citizen Action -- *Kalamazoo, MI*

Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency -- *Lansing, MI*  
 Michigan Minority Health Coalition -- *Lansing, MI*  
 Milwaukee 9to5 -- *Milwaukee, WI*  
 The Minneapolis Urban League -- *Minneapolis, MN*  
 Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center -- *Minneapolis, MN*  
 Minot Area Homeless Coalition, Inc. -- *North Dakota*  
 Missouri Immigrant & Refugee Advocates -- *St. Louis, MO*  
 Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition -- *State of MO*  
 Montana People's Action/Indian People's Action -- *Missoula, MT*  
 National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum - DC Chapter -- *Washington, DC*  
 National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum- Los Angeles Chapter -- *Los Angeles, CA*  
 National Association of Social Workers - MN Chapter -- *St. Paul, MN*  
 National Council of Jewish Women/Greater Detroit Section -- *Southfield, MI*  
 National Organization for Women, Detroit Chapter -- *East Lansing, MI*  
 National Organization for Women of NJ -- *Trenton, NJ*  
 National Organization for Women, North Dallas Chapter -- *Plano, TX*  
 NDPeople.org -- *Bismarck, ND*  
 Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest -- *Lincoln, NE*  
 New Hampshire Citizens Alliance -- *Concord, NH*  
 New Jersey Citizen Action -- *Newark, NJ*  
 New Mexico PACE -- *Albuquerque, NM*  
 New Mexico Voices for Children -- *Albuquerque, NM*  
 New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence -- *Albany, NY*  
 New York Immigration Coalition -- *New York, NY*  
 Newman Center, Catholic Community at University of California, San Diego -- *San Diego, CA*  
 Next Step -- *Edison, NJ*  
 NICOS Chinese Health Coalition -- *San Francisco, CA*  
 Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership, Inc. -- *New York, NY*  
 Northwest Federation of Community Organizations -- *Seattle, WA*  
 Northwest Health Law Advocates -- *Seattle, WA*  
 Northwest Women's Law Center -- *Seattle, WA*  
 Ocean State Action (Rhode Island) -- *Cranston, RI*  
 Operation Fuel, Inc. -- *Bloomfield, CT*  
 Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) -- *Garden Grove, CA*  
 Oregon Action -- *Portland, OR*  
 Ounce of Prevention Fund -- *Chicago, IL*  
 PathWaysPA -- *Holmes, PA*  
 Pax Christi Northeast Florida -- *St. Augustine, FL*  
 Pax Christi Northwest Minnesota -- *Crookston, MN*  
 Pennsylvania Council of Churches -- *Harrisburg, PA*  
 Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project Los Angeles County -- *Los Angeles, CA*  
 Primary Health Care, Inc. -- *Urbandale, IA*  
 Progressive Maryland -- *Silver Spring, MD*  
 Project IRENE -- *Berwyn, IL*  
 Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition (PAFCO) -- *Phoenix, AZ*  
 Public Justice Center -- *Baltimore, MD*  
 The Reproductive Rights Coalition of Monterey County -- *Monterey, CA*  
 RESULTS Boston -- *Boston, MA*  
 Riverside School of Health Careers -- *Newport News, VA*  
 Rockland Immigration Coalition -- *New City, NY*  
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse -- *Syracuse, NY*

S.T.R.I.D.E.S. -- *Syracuse, NY*  
 Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality -- *Salem, OR*  
 San Ysidro Health Center -- *San Diego, CA*  
 Savannah Deanery / Catholic Diocese of Savannah -- *Savannah, GA*  
 Senior Services -- *Seattle, WA*  
 Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN) -- *San Jose, CA*  
 Siete del Norte CDC -- *Embudo, NM*  
 Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership -- *Nazareth, KY*  
 Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia -- *Aston, PA*  
 Sisters of St. Joseph NW PA -- *Erie, PA*  
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia -- *Concordia, KS*  
 South Central Family Health Center -- *Los Angeles, CA*  
 Southwest Creations Collaborative -- *Albuquerque, NM*  
 St. Anne's Place -- *Minneapolis, MN*  
 Support Center for Disparities Elimination, Inc. -- *Covington, TN*  
 Tennessee Citizen Action -- *Nashville, TN*  
 Tennessee Health Care Campaign -- *Nashville, TN*  
 Town of Buckeye Social Services/Community Action Program -- *Buckeye, AZ*  
 United Vision for Idaho -- *Boise, ID*  
 United Way of Beaver County -- *Monaca, PA*  
 Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio (UHCAN Ohio) -- *State of OH*  
 University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health -- *Tucson, AZ*  
 Virginia Poverty Law Center -- *Richmond, VA*  
 Washington Community Action Network -- *Seattle, WA*  
 West Virginia Citizen Action Group -- *Charleston, WV*  
 Westside Health Services -- *Rochester, NY*  
 Wisconsin Council on Children and Families -- *Madison, WI*  
 Women Helping Women Lanai -- *Lanai City, HI*  
 YWCA Aurora -- *Aurora, IL*  
 YWCA of Hanover -- *Hanover, PA*  
 YWCA of Schenectady -- *Schenectady, NY*  
 YWCA of York -- *York, PA*  
 YWCA Omaha -- *Omaha, NE*  
 YWCA Orange County -- *New Windsor, NY*

cc: Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker  
 Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader  
 Honorable James Clyburn, Majority Whip  
 Honorable Rahm Emanuel, Democratic Caucus Chair  
 U.S. House of Representatives